

NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW: SEPTEMBER 3-30, 2013

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 30, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara vows to continue dialogue with opposition**
2. **Opinion poll shows where candidates stand ahead of PDCI-RDA congress**
3. **Prime Minister Duncan encourages foreign businessmen to invest in Cote d'Ivoire**

1. President Ouattara vows to continue dialogue with opposition

President Alassane Ouattara's renewed commitment to continue the dialogue with Cote d'Ivoire's opposition groups is one of the major issues in the press today. "The dialogue must continue in a bid to prepare for the 2015 elections," ***Fraternite Matin (p. 4)*** quotes the president as saying Sunday in Abidjan. President Ouattara spoke to reporters upon his return from New York, where he took part in the just-concluded UN General Assembly. According to the paper, the president's statement was a reaction to a question relating to the demand by the opposition FPI party for a general forum to address problems affecting the country.

The ongoing dialogue between the government and the opposition also features prominently in ***Soir Info (p. 4)***. According to the paper, the idea to propose a national forum as a way to defuse political tension in the country is part of a "political ruse" on the part of the party of former president Laurent Gbagbo to kill the government-initiated dialogue with all political groups. The paper also claims that the intention of Gbagbo's party is to use this opportunity to come back to the political arena as the principal opposition group. The paper also notes that the idea of a national forum has created more division within the country's political landscape and frustrated other groups that have been engaged in the current dialogue.

2. Opinion poll shows where candidates stand ahead of PDCI-RDA congress

A few days before the congress of the PDCI-RDA party, ***Le Jour Plus (pp. 2, 3, 4&5)*** has results of an opinion poll on the chances of the three principal candidates, including former president Henri Konan Bedie, to be elected the party's chairman. The poll, the paper says, was conducted by SIVES, a local survey company. Responding to a question on who they would vote for at the next PDCI congress, more than 78 percent of respondents said they would vote for Bedie, the current chairman of the party, the paper reports. The results show that PDCI's youth leader, Bertin Konan Kouadio, one of the three other candidates challenging the candidature of Bedie, ranked second with more than 16 percent of respondents saying they would vote for him.

An article in pro-PDCI newspaper, ***Le Mandat (p. 6)*** claims that the party's youth leader has abandoned his plan to contest the party's leadership. According to the paper, Kouadio confided his plan to step down to traditional chiefs. A report in ***L'Inter (p. 3)*** also suggests that negotiations are

underway to convince Alphonse Djedje Mady, the party's general secretary, to forgo his plan to compete for leadership of the party with Bedie.

3. Prime Minister Duncan encourages foreign businessmen to invest in Cote d'Ivoire

Reports today and in the weekend issue of **Fraternite Matin** say Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan used his recent visit to Canada to encourage foreign business to invest in Cote d'Ivoire. A report in the weekend issue of the paper (**p. 28**) says Prime Minister Duncan, in Canada to attend Forum Africa program, underscored the return of peace and the significant progress in the reconciliation process as some of the reasons for foreign economic operators to come to Cote d'Ivoire to do business. Another report in today's issue says the prime minister, who returned home on Sunday, announced that many Canadian businessmen are expected to arrive in Cote d'Ivoire soon.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[EU and Ivory Coast combat illegal logging](#)

ICT Update

The EU reported that Ivory Coast has around 10 million hectares of forested area and that about 80 percent of the forestry products are ...

[Ivory Coast to host High Level African Forum on water, sanitation ...](#)

Ghana Business News

Ivory_CoastWater The 3rd edition of the High Level Forum (HLF) on water, sanitation and hygiene will be held in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire from ...

[RPT-Olam joins list of 87 Ivory Coast cocoa exporters- CCC](#)

Reuters

... a list of companies with a licence to export cocoa products from top grower Ivory Coast for the 2013/2014 season due to start next week

[Côte d'Ivoire's difficult decade](#)

Political Analysis South Africa

Côte d'Ivoire's former president Laurent Gbagbo Thursday 19 September marked 11 years since the armed rebellion broke out in 2002. Côte d'Ivoire has ...

[Greater global solidarity needed for 'new generation' of development ...](#)

UN News Centre

The UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), set up in 2004, currently comprises nearly 10,000 uniformed personnel, including 8,500 troops and 1,300 police.

[Canada Concludes Investment Agreement with Côte d'Ivoire](#)

PR-BG.com (press release)

The Honourable Christian Paradis, Minister of International Development and Minister for La Francophonie, on behalf of the Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of

[Six Nigerian Cyclists for Tour De Cote d'Ivoire](#)

AllAfrica.com

Six Nigerian top cyclists will today in Abidjan join over 300 cyclists from other parts of Africa for the Tour de la reconciliation beginning today September 27th and

[Ivory Coast cocoa farmgate prices rise](#)

Business Recorder

Cocoa farmgate prices in most of Ivory Coast's principal growing regions rose in the past week as farmers held onto their beans while waiting for a new ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Unemployment: experts say streamlining training curricula can help halt the problem**
2. **Ahead of a possible lift of export ban, fact-finding mission will assess Ivoirian diamond sector**
3. **The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to probe on the alleged role of two staff members in a manslaughter case**

1. **Unemployment: experts say streamlining training curricula can help halt the problem**

According to a report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3), failure to match education and training with employment opportunities is in part the reason behind the high unemployment rate in Africa. The information, the paper says, came from experts gathered in Abidjan since yesterday for an international meeting. Jointly organized by Ivoirian job agency *Agence d'Etudes et de Promotion de l'Emploi (AGEP)* and the World Association of Public Employment Services (WAPES), the meeting aims at defining strategies to curb unemployment. In his address during the opening ceremony, Ivoirian Labor Minister Gnamien Konan underscored that the unemployment rate ranges from 15 to 42 percent in Cote d'Ivoire with a record level among university graduates. WAPES official Lenka Kint said unemployment can be mitigated if efforts are made to reduce the mismatch between jobs and training curricula. She argued that reshaping the training offered by schools and universities, as well as promoting specializations, are ways to overcome the problem.

L'Inter (p. 10) carries a similar account, adding that an adjustment of vocational training is also needed to reflect current job opportunities.

2. **Ahead of a possible lift of export ban, fact-finding mission will assess Ivoirian diamond sector**

Experts from the European Union will be visiting Cote d'Ivoire for a fact-finding mission to assess the Ivoirian diamond sector. The information is reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 21) which notes that the mission will evaluate the country's efforts to comply with requirements set by the Kimberley Process. Besides meetings in Abidjan, the delegation will be visiting Seguela, the country biggest diamond producing region. If conclusive, the move could pave the way for a lifting of the export ban imposed on diamonds from the country, in effect since 2005, the paper adds.

3. **The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire to probe on the alleged role of two staff members in a manslaughter case**

The UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) said yesterday that it will probe the alleged role of two of its staff members reportedly involved in the death of an Ivoirian national. According to *Soir Info* (p. 4) Yasmine Goude, a relative of former youth leader Charles Ble Goude, was found dead on September 13. Her body showed signs of torture, the paper says, adding that it is being rumored two employees of the UN mission in Abidjan played a role in her kidnaping and killing. "We are taking these allegations seriously and have ordered an internal probe," a statement issued by the UN mission read.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Birth certificate opens the door to school in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

Reuters AlertNet

GOYA, Côte d'Ivoire, September 26 (UNHCR) - Last week, hundreds of thousands of children went back to school across Côte d'Ivoire as a new academic year ...

[I.Coast puts hope in first feature film on conflict years](#)

GlobalPost

In the long run, Coulibaly-Diakite said he dreams that Ivory Coast, formerly the economic and financial hub of west Africa, can rival Nigeria's thriving cinema ...

[Africa Telecom People 2013 in Ivory Coast next week](#)

Biztech Africa

Global Voice Group (GVG) is proud to announce its participation as sponsor, exhibitor and speaker, in the Africa Telecom People 2013 (ATP), ...

[Gbagbo Daughter: 'My Parents Have Been Fighting For Democracy'](#)

KUOW News and Information

They were very active in getting democracy back in Cote d'Ivoire. So for them to get back to that point and to hear the news was really hard, but again, you know, ...

[Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Petroleum & Energy and PETROCI to host ...](#)

OilVoice (press release)

Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Petroleum & Energy, PETROCI and International Gas Union will host the CWC Group's 16th Gulf of Guinea Oil & Gas ...

[ECOWAS Discusses Gender in Police](#)

AllAfrica.com

Senior police officers from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Liberia are expected to end tomorrow a four-day discussion and exchange of ideas ...

[Cargill, CARE Extend Program to Improve Food Security in ...](#)

Food Product Design

The next phase of the collaboration will focus on projects in seven countries—India, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Egypt.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

SEPTEMBER 26, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Addressing the UN, President Alassane Ouattara calls for global efforts to foster peace, security and democracy; underlines achievements made in Cote d'Ivoire**
2. **Ahead of deployment to Mali, Ivoirian infantry squad trained by French soldiers**
3. **Ivoirian state-owned postal company to offer home-delivery service**
4. **A high-profile meeting on gender-based violence opened Tuesday in Abidjan**

1. Addressing the UN, President Alassane Ouattara calls for global efforts to foster peace, security and democracy; underlines achievements made in Cote d'Ivoire

In an address yesterday at the UN, President Alassane Ouattara called on world leaders to continue to champion efforts towards peace and security, arguing that these are prerequisites to achieve the *Millennium Development Goals*. The information is reported by ***Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5)**, which notes the Ivoirian leader also underscored that, although outstanding achievements have been made in most countries, challenges to development remain. "We must not overlook that more needs to be done as we are approaching 2015," he reportedly said. President Ouattara also called for "global solidarity" and denounced wars and conflicts plaguing development plans.

***L'Inter* (p. 4)** said the Ivoirian leader underlined efforts being made in Cote d'Ivoire to revive the economy. "Thanks to your support, Cote d'Ivoire is back at work and is on the path of development," the paper reports him as saying.

2. Ahead of deployment to Mali, Ivoirian infantry squad trained by the French soldiers

170 soldiers from the Ivoirian infantry were recently offered training on combat operations by trainers from the French *Licorne* forces. This information is reported by ***Le Patriote* (p. 6)**, which notes that the training was held in anticipation of the deployment of the Ivoirian soldiers to Timbuktu in northern Mali. The squad will be integrated into the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the paper adds. In his address, the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi commended *Licorne* for the training and called on members of the squad to fulfill their duties responsibly.

3. Ivoirian state-owned postal company to offer home-delivery service

The management of *La Poste de Cote d'Ivoire* said that the state-owned company will be developing a home-delivery service of couriers and messengers. According to ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 9)** the information was released yesterday by the company's Director General Mamadou Konate. Mr. Konate said the move will revive a declining business and will allow the company to streamline its operations throughout the country. To implement the project, streets will be given names based on international postal standards, he said. "This will offer various advantages and will ultimately boost business, as well as help combat crimes and improve public services," Mr. Konate said.

4. A high-profile meeting on gender-based violence opened Tuesday in Abidjan

The annual meeting of the NGO *Réseau International Femme de Metropolis (RIF)* opened Tuesday in Abidjan. The information is reported by ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2)** which notes that the issues of gender-based violence and women in conflict situations will be highlights of the discussions. According to Nadine Morano, an official from the advocacy group, 70% of war victims are women and children. "Women are raped, killed, or used as "weapons" during conflicts," she stated, adding that this cannot be left unattended. Many women's rights and advocacy groups are expected to attend the event, the paper adds.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Greater Global Solidarity Needed for 'New Generation' of ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

... Needed for 'New Generation' of Development Goals - Côte d'Ivoire ...*President of Côte d'Ivoire*, today called for greater global solidarity to ...

[Cocoa Swings as **Ivory Coast** Sells Amid Shortages; Coffee Drops](#)

Bloomberg

Cocoa swung between gains and losses in London as investors weighed more selling by *Ivory Coast*, the world's largest producer, and ..

[**Ivory Coast** Offers Cocoa for 2014-15 in a Futures Bull Market](#)

Businessweek

Ivory Coast, the world's largest cocoa producer, offered to sell beans for shipment in the 2014-15 season after futures traded on the NYSE Liffe exchange in London entered a bull market earlier this month. Beans for shipment from October to December 2014 ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 25, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara meets with head of Human Rights Watch**
2. **President Ouattara and African leaders seek UN support for peace in Africa**
3. **Government holds talks with opposition FPI party**
4. **PEPFAR funds training for teachers**

1. President Ouattara meets with head of Human Rights Watch

Rule of law, equal justice for all, the transfer of former first lady Simone Gbagbo and former Ivoirian youth leader Charles Ble Goude to the International Criminal Court were on the top of the agenda during a meeting in New York yesterday between President Alassane Ouattara and the director of Human Rights Watch, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)**. The meeting came on the sidelines of the ongoing UN General Assembly. According to the report, President Ouattara gave his assurances to the human rights group on these issues. "The president has given us his assurances that justice is equitable for all," the paper quotes the director of Human Rights Watch, Kenneth Roth as saying after the meeting. Regarding the recent decision by the Ivoirian government not to transfer the former first lady to The Hague, the president has also pledged a transparent and impartial trial for Mrs. Gbagbo. "President Ouattara has reaffirmed his commitment to uphold impunity," **L'Inter (p. 5)** quotes an official statement as saying.

2. President Ouattara and African leaders seek UN support for peace in Africa

The African Union has called for strong support from the UN to ensure peace and security on the continent, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)**. According to the paper, the call was made yesterday in New York at a meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council chaired by President Ouattara. The African leaders also called on the UN to take measures in order to foster a close relationship between the two bodies on issues including peacekeeping and international security, the report says.

3. Government holds talks with opposition FPI party

A meeting between the government and a delegation of the opposition FPI party yesterday in Abidjan features prominently today in the press. In the wake of these direct talks, **Notre Voie (p. 5)** notes that the two sides are facing a difficult negotiation. While the party of the former president Laurent Gbagbo welcomed this new dialogue with the government, the paper quotes the head of the FPI's delegation, Sebastien Danon Djedje, as saying that the party has maintained its call for a national forum that will take into account not only political but also other serious issues confronting the country.

"The FPI has again put on the negotiating table its demand for a national forum," reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**, which also quotes Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan as warning, "We should not go beyond the red line." Mr. Duncan also insisted that the ongoing dialogue initiated by President Ouattara is part of his plan to reach out to the opposition in a bid to settle problems facing the country through consultations.

Reporting on the political dialogue between the government and the former ruling party, **Soir Info (p. 6)** notes that the leader of the FPI, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, who was released from jail almost two months ago, did not participate in the discussions yesterday. A report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2)** also says the FPI has rejected the dialogue with the government, calling for a national forum instead.

4. PEPFAR funds training for teachers

About 25 teachers are taking part in training in Bongouanou, north of Abidjan, on HIV/AIDS, reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)**. According to the paper, the training, which is organized with the support of the PEPFAR, is designed to provide teachers with skills to enable them continue the campaign on the disease.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Former Ivory Coast first lady facing crimes against humanity charges](#)

Legalbrief (subscription)

Former **Ivory Coast** first lady facing crimes against humanity charges ...BBC **News** reports that the wife of former President Laurent Gbagbo is being prosecuted ...

[Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal Discuss Gender](#)

AllAfrica.com

Senior police officers from Sierra Leone, Guinea, Senegal, **Ivory Coast** and Liberia yesterday commenced a four-day discussion and exchange ...

[Afrimab General Assembly Opens](#)

AllAfrica.com

... Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Madagascar.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 24, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Ouattara holds talks with UN Secretary General**
2. **Minister in Charge of Defense vows to crack down on illegal gunmen**
3. **Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chairman under fire after criticizing government**
4. **Government and IDB sign US \$164 million agreement**
5. **Panel tasked to help implement media recommendations**

1. President Ouattara holds talks with UN Secretary General

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has commended authorities in Cote d'Ivoire for their efforts to stabilize the situation in the country, two years after the 2010 post-election violence, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)**. "We talked about the general situation in our country. He recognized himself that the situation is good. It has improved and things are moving well in various sectors including the economy, security, human rights and the general stabilization of the country," President Alassane Ouattara is reported as saying after a meeting with the Secretary General yesterday in New York. President Ouattara, who met with the Secretary General on the margins of the 68th UN General Assembly, is scheduled to address the session that opens today.

2. Minister in Charge of Defense vows to crack down on illegal gunmen

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 9)** quotes the Minister in Charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as saying that the government will not tolerate any attacks on security forces. According to the paper, the minister was speaking in Yamoussoukro on Monday at a meeting in an attempt to resolve a conflict between government forces and traditional hunters also known as Dozos. "The state cannot tolerate the killing of security forces. This behavior is contrary to the rule of law," the minister is reported as telling the Dozos.

"Rule of law is not negotiable," a report in **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 11)** quotes the minister as saying. The report also says the meeting between the minister and Dozos came after seven soldiers were killed in Yamoussoukro and other parts of the country. "Paul Koffi Koffi declares war on assailants," reads a prominent story in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)**. "We don't want to see the Dozos anymore," **L'Inter (p. 3)** quotes the minister as saying. "After the crisis, the time has come for the Dozos to return to hunting, their normal activity," the minister reportedly said.

3. Truth and Reconciliation Commission Chairman under fire after criticizing government

Pro-government newspapers today have called for the resignation of Charles Konan Banny, the chairman of the Dialogue, Truth, and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR). Commenting on recent statements made by Banny, who was speaking as a key member of the PDCI-RDA party ahead of the party's congress in October, **Le Patriote (p. 2)**, denounces what it sees as "demagogy" and calls for his resignation as the chairman of the CDVR. The paper also believes that, in his position as the chairman of the CDVR, Banny should exercise restraint when he speaks in public; after criticizing President Ouattara and his ally Henri Konan Bedie, Banny should resign.

An article in **Le Jour Plus (p. 3)** says Banny has sacked himself. The paper calls for the reconciliation commission to be dissolved and replaced by the National Program for Social Cohesion (PNCS) put in place by the government.

While pro-government dailies call for the resignation Banny, an article in **L'Inter (p. 5)** indicates that the chairman of the CDVR is preparing for the 2015 presidential elections. According to **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)**, supporters of President Ouattara are panicked after Banny's recent statements saying, "I don't accept that, despite my experience, I should be banned from having an ambition for

Cote d'Ivoire." The paper also suggests that the chairman of the CDVR has become a potential "threat" to the regime after his comments on the country's current political and social situation.

4. Government and IDB sign US \$164 million agreement

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 25) says the government and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) signed yesterday in Abidjan a FCFA 82-billion (about US \$164 million) agreement meant for development projects in western and northern Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, these projects include road construction and the rehabilitation of education and social infrastructure.

5. Panel tasked to help implement media recommendations

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 28) says the government has put in place a nine member panel tasked with implementing recommendations for a more professional media in Cote d'Ivoire proposed at a conference a year ago. According to the paper, the panel has three months to come up with a roadmap on how to ensure "excellent journalism" in Cote d'Ivoire.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[Rains strengthen Ivory Coast's cocoa crop](#)

Business Recorder

Abundant rainfall mixed with spells of sunshine in **Ivory Coast's** main cocoa regions last week could improve the forthcoming October-to-March cocoa main crop but risks of diseases spreading persist, farmers said on Monday. The main cocoa harvest season ...

[UN chief hails Cote d'Ivoire govt's gesture toward political opposition](#)

[Global Times](#)

The secretary-general made the remarks as he was meeting with **Cote d'Ivoire President** Alassane Ouattara, who is here to attend an annual high-level debate of the United Nations scheduled for Tuesday. During the meeting, "the secretary-general ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 23, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Reactions after Cote d'Ivoire rules against sending former first lady to ICC, decides to release 3,000 prisoners**
2. **Controversy over ICC's warrant on Charles Ble Goude**
3. **Ex-Prime Minister criticizes government, announces intention to run for presidency**
4. **France and Cote d'Ivoire agree on debt cancellation**
5. **President Ouattara in New York to attend UN General Assembly**
6. **U.S. Embassy marks International Coastal Cleanup day**

1. Reactions after Cote d'Ivoire rules against sending former first lady to ICC, decides to release 3,000 prisoners

The decision by the Ivoirian government on Friday not to transfer former first lady Simone Gbagbo to the International Criminal Court (ICC), but to have her tried by domestic courts instead, has sparked mixed reactions in the press. A report in the weekend issue of *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6) says the opposition FPI party has welcomed the decision, saying, "the government has now joined the FPI," on its position that "the Ivoirian justice system is equipped to rule on any matter on the national territory and to render justice in the name of the people of Cote d'Ivoire." The paper also sees the government's refusal to hand over the wife of the former president Laurent Gbagbo to The Hague and the decision to pardon some 3,000 prisoners as a major step towards peace and reconciliation. But an article in *L'Inter* (p. 5) claims that the government's justification for its decision that "Ivoirian courts have now been restored and are even able to guarantee Mrs. Gbagbo a fair trial with the rights to a defense," could be "politically motivated." The true reason, the paper quotes observers as saying is that, taking the former first lady to The Hague is likely to put the government in a difficult situation in which it will have to hand over key military and political officials close to the government to the ICC. Another article in this paper (p. 2), quotes a lawyer for supporters of former president Gbagbo, who have been jailed for alleged crimes committed following the post-election violence in 2010, describing the government's decision to free only prisoners except those close to the former regime as "unfair."

An article in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) suggests that the decision not to transfer Mrs. Gbagbo to the ICC should not be seen as an act of "generosity" on the part of President Ouattara but rather as "a signal to killers close to his regime to enjoy impunity."

2. Controversy over ICC's warrant on Charles Ble Goude

A report in today's issue of *Le Jour Plus* (p. 4) says the government is not speaking with one voice on the case of Charles Ble Goude, the Ivoirian youth leader, who is being detained in connection with alleged crimes committed following the post-election violence in 2010. "A warrant is effectively hanging over Charles Ble Goude but the government has not yet been asked by the ICC to hand him over to The Hague," the paper quotes Justice and Human Rights Minister Mamadou Gnenema Coulibaly as saying in an interview with local media. But the paper quotes government spokesperson Bruno Kone who expressed doubt about any warrant issued by the ICC against Ble Goude.

3. Ex-Prime Minister criticizes government, announces intention to run for presidency

Former Ivoirian Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny is maneuvering to run for the presidency in 2015, comments *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 8). Banny, who was speaking over the weekend to local media, says, "I don't accept that, despite my experience, I should be banned from having an ambition for Cote d'Ivoire." Banny, a key member of the ex-ruling PDCI-RDA party is also reported as saying that this party should not continue playing "a second role" but should become a party that seeks "power." The report also quotes him denouncing what he sees as "pockets of poverty" across the

country and calls on the leaders of the PDCI-RDA to come out with solutions to respond to the social challenges facing the population. According to the paper, these declarations from Banny, who is the current chairman of Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, are part of his strategy to seek the nomination of his party for the 2015 presidential elections. The paper also indicates that, if his bid fails, Banny cannot stand for presidency in 2020 when he will be 77 years old.

"Banny slams Bedie and Ouattara," writes **Notre Voie (p. 6)**, which believes that the former Prime Minister is preparing the opinion ahead of his possible candidature in the 2015 presidential elections.

4. France and Cote d'Ivoire agree on debt cancellation

A report in the weekend issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)** says France and Cote d'Ivoire signed a FCFA 117 billion (approximately US \$234 million) debt relief agreement on Friday. According to the paper, the agreement will help Cote d'Ivoire fund development projects in various sectors including education and training, employment, health, and environment, as well as natural resource conservation. The agreement was signed by French Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire, Georges Serre and the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba.

5. President Ouattara in New York to attend UN General Assembly

President Ouattara left Abidjan for New York, where he will be attending the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)**. Another report in this paper (p. 4) says President Ouattara is scheduled to meet UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the margins of the session today.

6. U.S. Embassy marks International Coastal Cleanup day

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 10)** says the U.S. Embassy and PARO-CI, a local NGO, jointly organized a cleanup exercise at the beach in Abidjan on Saturday to mark International Coastal Cleanup day.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

SEPTEMBER 20, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Security reforms in Cote d'Ivoire: U.S. sponsored agreement to strength civilian policing and law enforcement capacity signed yesterday**
2. **Ivoirian Health Minister outlines recent achievements but denounces low budget**
3. **Party members seek consensus on PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie**
4. **Government-opposition dialogue to resume next week, FPI leadership confirms**
5. **Three killed in a roadside attack in western Cote d'Ivoire**

1. **Security reforms in Cote d'Ivoire: U.S. sponsored agreement to strength civilian policing and law enforcement capacity signed yesterday**

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6), U.S. Embassy Chargé d'Affaires, Cheryl Sim and the Ivoirian Minister of Interior Hamed Bakayoko signed yesterday in Abidjan an agreement that will establish and support a project designed to strengthen civilian policing and law enforcement in Cote d'Ivoire. The move, the paper says, is meant to assist the government of Cote d'Ivoire to make critical institutional reforms to the security sector. In his address, Minister Bakayoko commended the good relationship between the two countries and thanked the U.S. government for its continued support.

L'Inter (p. 2) carried a similar story, adding that the three-year project could be extended. Ultimately, the project will reinforce the rule of law and promote human rights in Cote d'Ivoire, the paper says.

2. **Ivoirian Health Minister outlines recent achievements but denounces low budget**

Raymonde Koffi Goudou, the Ivoirian Minister of Health and the Fight against HIV/AIDS said yesterday that achievements have been made in the health sector despite a low budget. According to *L'Inter* (p. 13), Minister Goudou was interviewed by reporters during the "Rendez-Vous du Gouvernement," a media program that aims at promoting government activities. She argued that, thanks to the free healthcare policy initiated by the government, women and children up to 5 years of age have been able to access medical treatment. A total of CFA F 19 billion (approximately US 38 million) have been mobilized to support this project, she said, adding that arrangements to extend the project are being studied.

Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 10) notes that according to Minister Goudou, the health sector has been allotted only 4% of the national budget – not the 15% announced by the government.

3. **Party members seek consensus on PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie**

Gathered yesterday for a meeting ahead of its congress, the leadership of the PDCI called for a consensus on PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie. According to *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 2-6), this was the bottom-line of the final communiqué of the meeting, which called on the different rival camps to unite to uphold the party.

4. **Government-opposition dialogue to resume next week, FPI leadership confirms**

According to an article in *Notre Voie* (p. 2), the government-opposition dialogue is to resume next week. The FPI party, which in June suspended its participation in the talks reportedly to denounce the arrest of its youth branch leader Justin Koua, has confirmed it will join the discussion, the paper adds. According to the daily, FPI president Pascal Affi Nguessan will take part in the discussions. Former Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou is said to be President Ouattara's pick to conduct the talks on behalf of the government, the paper says.

5. Three killed in a roadside attack in western Cote d'Ivoire

Three people were killed in what is reported as an attack by roadside robbers in western Cote d'Ivoire. According to ***L'Inter (p. 2)***, the incident took place on the Duekoue-Bangolo road and resulted in the death of two dozoz – traditional hunters associated with the Ivoirian army.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Dagri Diabaté - 'The Medals of Ahouré Reconcile Ivorians'](#)

AllAfrica.com

Cote d'Ivoire: Dagri Diabaté - 'The Medals of Ahouré Reconcile Ivorians'. By Moutakilou Mumuni, 19 September 2013. Africa Top Sports has reported.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 19, 2013

Today's Top Stories

- 1. Fragmented PDCI set for crucial meeting today ahead of October congress**
- 2. Government pushing for lift of embargo on Ivoirian diamonds**
- 3. Ivoirian refugees in Togo to come back home today**
- 4. Blood transfusion conference underway in Abidjan**

1. Fragmented PDCI set for crucial meeting today ahead of October congress

A meeting of executive members of the PDCI-RDA party today ahead of the October congress makes prominent headlines in the local press. A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 9)** says PDCI-RDA's chairman Henry Konan Bedie is set to have a crucial meeting today with his two challengers, party's secretary general Alphonse Djedje Mady and youth leader Bertin Konan Kouadio, who have filed nomination to contest the party's leadership in the congress slated for October. The article suggests that the three challengers may use this meeting, probably the last one before the October congress, to harmonize their positions on certain issues.

Le Nouveau Reveil, which devotes large columns to the ongoing in-fighting among the party's leadership, speculates **(p. 3)** that the meeting of the executive members could lead to "major decisions." According to the paper, the first decision that the party's top officials will be taking is to agree on the date and the number of delegates who will be attending the congress tentatively scheduled from October 3 to October 5. In a related development, the paper **(pp. 4&5)** reports that the women's wing of the party, which gathered yesterday in Abidjan, endorsed Bedie's candidature for the leadership of the party. "Bedie is the right man to live up to the new challenges," PDCI-RDA women leader Dao Coulibaly is reported saying.

***L'Inter* (p. 5)** reports that secretary general Alphonse Djedje Mady is expected to attend today's meeting. According to the paper, Djedje Mady, who sees Bedie's candidature as illegal, will again use the opportunity to call for respect of the rules and regulations of the party. Djedje Mady is also reported by ***Soir Info* (p. 4)** as saying that the party's leaders, who approved Bedie's bid for the party's chairmanship, made a big mistake.

2. Government pushing for lift of embargo on Ivoirian diamonds

According to a report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 4)**, the government is pushing for the embargo imposed on Ivoirian diamonds since 2005 to be lifted. The paper quotes the government's spokesperson Bruno Kone as saying that a decree was adopted yesterday at a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara. The decree, the minister says, seeks among other things, to ensure the traceability and trading of raw diamond from Cote d'Ivoire. The paper also claims that by adopting this decree, the government has put in place the "reliable control mechanisms" demanded under the Kimberly process.

Reporting on the same issue, ***L'Inter* (p. 13)** says the application of this decree will help streamline the diamond mining in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. Ivoirian refugees in Togo to come back home today

A convoy of more than 100 Ivoirian refugees living in Togo is expected today in Cote d'Ivoire says a report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 6)**. According to the paper, the refugees are coming back a few days after President Ouattara's visit to Togo, where he called on those who are still living in Togo to return home.

In a related development, a report in ***L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 3)** says nearly 150 of the Ivoirians who sought refuge in Liberia during the 2010-2011 post-electoral conflict returned home a few days ago.

4. Blood transfusion conference underway in Abidjan

A blood transfusion conference is taking place this week in Abidjan, reports **Fraternite Matin (p .11)**. The conference is jointly organized by the National Blood Transfusion Center, the World Health Organization, and PEPFAR, and is aimed at finding ways to reinforce methods and mechanisms to secure blood transfusions.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

Building community cohesion in the Ivory Coast

TransConflict

Distressed by post-election violence and North-South ethnic tribalism, James Offuh created United for Peace Against Conflict International (UFPACI) in January 2012 to build community cohesion and respect for cultural differences. UFPACI contributes to ...

[Hershey, Barry Callebaut team up to build primary school in Ivory ...](#)

Candy Industry

Hershey, Barry Callebaut team up to build primary school in **Ivory Coast...** training center in the western **cocoa**-growing region of **Côte d'Ivoire**.

[Ivory Coast - August 2013 coffee exports fall 18.1%](#)

AgraNet

Ivory Coast exported 5,973 tonnes of coffee beans in August 2013, down from 10,963 in the previous month and 18.1% lower than the 7,295 ...

[Blue Sphere Signs Binding MOU for Landfill Gas to Energy Project in Ivory Coast](#)

AZoCleantech

Blue Sphere Corp. (the "Company" or "Blue Sphere"), a company in the cleantech sector as a waste-to-energy and clean energy project integrator, is pleased to announce that it has signed a binding memorandum of understanding in respect of a 3-6 MW ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 18, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Heavy tax could undermine rubber production, farmers say**
2. **Panel meets to discuss security reforms**
3. **Banny calls for respect of the PDCI's constitution ahead of congress**
4. **Gbagbo's spokesman sheds light on Mamadou Koulibaly's allegiance to President Ouattara**
5. **Population census launched in Cote d'Ivoire**

1. Heavy tax could undermine rubber production, farmers say

Fraternite Matin (p. 15) reports that farmers are not happy about the government's decision to impose new taxes on rubber production. According to the paper, the president of the Association of Natural Rubber Production in Cote d'Ivoire (APROCANCI), Honest Wadjas, said this yesterday during a press briefing. "If these measures are maintained, the rubber sector could be bankrupt by the year 2014," the paper quotes Wadjas as saying. He also said that taxes imposed on rubber production are "too heavy." According to him, taxes being paid by the farmers account for 2.5 percent of their revenues; while rubber production companies are paying taxes representing 25 percent of their incomes. A new tax has been imposed since the beginning of this year on the turnover of the rubber industries making it impossible for them to buy the raw product from the farmers, Wadjas said.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 3) reports farmers and companies describing the new fiscal measures as "counter-productive." In a related development, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** reports that companies are threatening to move to another country to escape the taxes imposed by the Ivoirian government. The article also reports farmers as saying that they could decide to sell their product in Ghana and Liberia.

2. Panel meets to discuss security reforms

A panel working on a security sector reforms is meeting this week to prepare recommendations for the implementation of the program, reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)**. Daniel Cheick Bamba, a representative of the Ministry of Interior, said these recommendations will help reinforce security in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. Banny calls for respect of the PDCI's constitution ahead of congress

An op-ed signed by former Ivoirian Prime Minister Charles Konan Banny ahead of the congress of the ex-ruling PDCI-RDA party makes prominent headlines in the press. **Le Temps (p. 4)**, which publishes the statement, underscores Banny's call for respect of the party's rules and regulations. Speaking as a leading member of the party, Banny, who is the current chairman of the Dialogue Truth and Reconciliation Commission, warns that the party's "credibility" could be undermined "if we refuse to abide by our texts."

L'Expression (p. 2) also publishes the op-ed in which Banny suggests that "any alliance formed during an exceptional period in the history of the country should not hinder the party's responsibility to seek power." Reacting to this statement, the paper, in a commentary, claims that Banny could be the instigator of the current in-fighting in the party led by former president Henry Konan Bedie. The commentator also suggests that Banny's call on the party to seek power as "a means to protect our citizens and supporters" could be interpreted as a call "to fight" the RHDP political alliance spearheaded by Banny and President Alassane Ouattara.

4. Gbagbo's spokesman sheds light on Mamadou Koulibaly's allegiance to President Ouattara

Reports in many newspapers today say former president Laurent Gbagbo's spokesman Justin Katinan Kone has rejected recent allegations made by Mamadou Koulibaly, the former speaker of the Ivoirian National Assembly, regarding his allegiance to President Ouattara shortly after the capture of Gbagbo in April 2011. An article in **L'Inter (p. 5)** says Kone was reacting to a statement made a week ago by Koulibaly to foreign media. Koulibaly is reported as saying that his declaration of allegiance to President Ouattara was presented on his behalf by key Gbagbo's allies including Kone. But Kone rejects this allegation. The spokesman claims that he personally deployed all efforts to convince Koulibaly to take the lead and help restore "the constitutional order" after the capture of Gbagbo, but did not succeed. "There is nothing we can do. Gbagbo is finished. The FPI is dead...The only way out is to help Ouattara's regime to become legal so that we can also freely play our role as an opposition," Kone quotes Koulibaly as saying.

5. Population census launched in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in **Soir Info (p. 9)** says a population census has been launched by the government almost 15 years after the last census completed in 1998 in Cote d'Ivoire. The program was launched on Monday and, according to Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, the census will help provide accurate data and enable the government to implement its development plan. The report also indicates that the exercise will begin in 50 days and will help have the true figure of the Ivoirian population estimated now at 25 million inhabitants.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)
[Nigeria, SSA Countries' GDP to Reach \\$1.84tn by 2017](#)
THISDAY Live

Cote d'Ivoire will continue to make a strong recovery from the political turmoil of 2011 (average growth of 8 per cent). Ghana is close to ...

[Defence sector at high risk of graft](#)
Daily Star Online

The countries are Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, ... for civil society and other citizens with technical and non-technical details...

[Iran, Ivory Coast Keen to Expand Bilateral Ties](#)
Fars News Agency

Iran, Ivory Coast Keen to Expand Bilateral Ties ... believed to be prioritizing promotion of its *economic* and political ties with the African states.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 17, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Debate of death of Ivoirian trade unionist**
2. **Prime Minister announces 2014 economic forum**
3. **Anti-corruption forum opens in Abidjan**
4. **150 ex-fighters disarmed in Agboville**
5. **Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with diplomats over immunity and privileges**

1. Debate of death of Ivoirian trade unionist

The death of Ivoirian trade unionist Basile Mahan Gahe in a hospital yesterday in Abidjan has sparked debate in the press. A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 31) describes Mahan Gahe, who was released in December 2012 after 22 months in prison for his involvement in the 2010-2011 post-electoral crisis, as an "illustrious" trade unionist who was at the forefront of union movements in Cote d'Ivoire. A report in *Aujourd'hui* (p. 4) says that, in a reaction to the death of the trade unionist, the opposition FPI party called on President Alassane Ouattara to learn a lesson from this death. The paper also quotes the party of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo as alleging that "Mahan Gahe died as result of abuses he suffered during his arrest and long detention in Abidjan and Boundiali." A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 6) also quotes FPI's leader Pascal Affi N'Guessan as calling Mahan Gahe "a victim" of President Ouattara's regime. The paper however deplores attempts "to politicize" the death of the unionist and called on the Ivoirian political stakeholders to take "responsibility."

2. Prime Minister announces 2014 economic forum

According to a report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16), about 3,000 businessmen are expected to participate in an economic forum set to be held in Abidjan from January 29 to February 1, 2014. The report says this was announced yesterday by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan, who indicated that the forum is designed for both local and international economic actors willing to do business in Cote d'Ivoire. The forum, Duncan is also reported as saying, will help stimulate partnership between businessmen.

Reporting on the same issue, *L'Inter* (p. 13) says the Ivoirian government is expecting nearly FCFA 100 billion (US \$200 million) of investments from this forum that would help increase the total GDP from 18 per cent in 2013 to 23 per cent in 2014.

3. Anti-corruption forum opens in Abidjan

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 13) quotes Ivoirian Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba as saying, "corruption is a cancer that is harming the image of the country and the performance of the public services." According to the paper, the minister said this during a seminar on how to fight corruption that is taking place this week in Abidjan.

Fraternite Matin (p. 16) reports that the goal of the seminar is to help reinforce the capacity of bodies fighting corruption in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes Kaba as saying, "The fight against corruption has become necessary in order to consolidate efforts to improve the Ivoirian economy."

4. 150 ex-fighters disarmed in Agboville

Some 150 former combatants have been disarmed in Agboville, a town north of Abidjan in connection with the disarmament and reintegration program, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7). These combatants include youth who fought along the government's Forces Republicaines de Cote d'Ivoire during the recent post-electoral crisis in Cote d'Ivoire.

In a related development, a report in *Le Patriote* (p. 4) says a campaign of the disarmament and reintegration program has been launched in the western region of Cote d'Ivoire in a bid to encourage

former combatants in this region to hand over their guns. Another report on the same page of this paper says war ammunitions have been recently collected from former combatants in Mont Peko in western Cote d'Ivoire.

5. Minister of Foreign Affairs meets with diplomats over immunity and privileges

Issues related to privileges and immunities of foreign diplomats were on the agenda during a meeting yesterday between Ivoirian Minister of Foreign Affairs Charles Koffi Diby and foreign diplomats in Abidjan, reports ***Fraternite Matin (p. 32)***. According to the paper, the meeting was part of routine consultations initiated by the Ivoirian government. The minister, the report says, used the occasion to reaffirm the government's commitment to creating conditions, in respect of the Vienna Conventions, to enable foreign diplomats to move freely about their business throughout the country.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Market Report: Bid talk casts Shire as buyer, not target](#)

The Independent

Rialto Energy agreed a deal with **Ivory Coast's** energy ministry to replace its existing contract for a block at one of its sites, and it was 0.205p ...

[PERSEUS MINING LIMITED : High Grade Gold Results From Cote D ...](#)

4-traders (press release)

Perseus Mining Limited (ASX/TSX: PRU) is pleased to provide an update on significant exploration drilling results returned from the Company's ...

[ECOWAS agree to combat desertification](#)

Africa Science News Service

The Prime Minister of **Côte d'Ivoire** and Minister of **Economy** and Finances, in his speech delivered by Mr. Charles Koffi Diby, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, ...

[Call for scale up of HIV prevention programmes for military and ...](#)

UNAIDS (press release)

... countries in conflict or post conflict situations including **Côte d'Ivoire**, ... victims of sexual violence to **health** care services to training trainers ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 16, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Primary and secondary schools reopen today**
2. **Reports say ex-warlords still control economy in northern Cote d'Ivoire**
3. **Party members clash at RDR headquarters in Abidjan**
4. **Prison guards abort mutiny at the Abidjan prison**
5. **President Ouattara's visit to Nigeria and Togo**
6. **Journalist suspended for plagiarism**

1. Primary and secondary schools reopen today

Reports in the press today say primary and secondary schools are scheduled to reopen today, marking the beginning of the 2013-2014 academic year in Cote d'Ivoire. A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 13) says the Ministry of National Education's objectives this year are to ensure "an excellent education" and "zero teenage pregnancy."

Meanwhile a report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 6) raises concerns about difficulties that are likely to undermine a smooth reopening of the schools. The paper mentions the low turnout for registration as one of the problems. It says despite the fact that registration is free, only 50 percent of students of primary school have so far been registered for admission in the primary schools.

2. Reports say ex-warlords still control economy in northern Cote d'Ivoire

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 2) claims that, two years after the political crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, former warlords also known as Com'Zones are still controlling business in the country's northern regions. The paper, which attributes this to the French newspaper, *Jeune Afrique*, says the former warlords are utilizing new methods to continue businesses that helped them amass wealth when the country was split into two during the 2002 rebellion.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2), which reports on the same issue, quotes *Jeune Afrique* describing one of the warlords, Issiaka Ouattara, also known as Wattao, as "an anonymous cook with the rank of corporal in the army when the rebellion started in 2002, but now one of the most colorful people in the Republic." For the paper, this report clearly shows that the Com'Zones phenomenon has yet to disappear even with a new government in power.

3. Party members clash at RDR headquarters in Abidjan

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 3) says a meeting called by members of President Alassane Ouattara's RDR turned violent over the weekend as a section of the party's supporters protested against what they described as "mismanagement" within the party. The protesters, the report says, also called some of the party's executives as "traitors" for not abiding by the party's constitution. Some of the supporters reportedly lamented that they have been abandoned after the party gained power.

Despite these acts of violence, the meeting was an opportunity for RDR's executive members to lay the groundwork for a program designed to ensure the re-election of President Ouattara in 2015, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7).

4. Prison guards abort mutiny at the Abidjan prison

According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10), a mutiny attempt staged over the weekend by notorious inmates was aborted by prison guards in Abidjan. According to the paper, no prisoners were able to escape from the jail during the clash between the guards and the disgruntled inmates. The paper also quotes the Minister Justice and Human Rights, Gnenema Coulibaly, as saying that four people including two guards were injured during the scuffle.

5. President Ouattara's visit to Nigeria and Togo

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)** quotes President Ouattara as saying the West African leaders are working “to ensure that peace prevails in the sub-region.” According to the paper, the president said this over the weekend during his visit to Togo where he met with his Togolese counterpart, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe. President Ouattara was also in Nigeria where he attended the graduation ceremony of 130 military officers named after him.

6. Journalist suspended for plagiarism

Soir Info (p. 14) publishes a statement issued by the National Press Council (CNP), a state-run print media regulatory body, suspending a journalist with the pro-government newspaper *Le Jour Plus* for three months. According to the statement, the journalist, Traore Abou, has been suspended for reprinting a report published in 2011 by another newspaper without attributing the article to the main source.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[African Commodities Bonanza Still Not Financing Sustainable ...](#)

[AllAfrica.com](#)

... and set the stage for Africa's full entry into a globalized economy? ... five of Nigeria's 36 states, Kenya, South Africa, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.

[World Cyber Security Conference in Nigeria this week](#)

Biztech Africa

As a new report says cyber-criminals in Ivory Coast have stolen over ... in the past year, one tells BiztechAfrica cybercrime is just business.

[Chocolate prices set to rise](#)

[3News NZ](#)

Most of the cocoa in the world, 70 percent is grown in a small area stretching from the western edge of the **Ivory Coast**, moving east through ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **After a decade-long quarantine, Cote d'Ivoire is catching up on the AGOA, papers say**
2. **FPI president Affi Nguessan says he remains upbeat on the release of Laurent Gbagbo**
3. **ECOWAS Parliament to streamline and expand regional activities**
4. **The U.S. Embassy in Abidjan sponsors a workshop for proximity radios**

1. **After a decade-long quarantine, Cote d'Ivoire is catching up on the AGOA, papers say**

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5), thanks to its readmission to the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), Cote d'Ivoire has increased its share of export goods on the U.S. market over the past two years. The information, the paper says, was released last month during the AGOA Forum held in Addis Ababa. Cote d'Ivoire's exports have totaled more than U.S. \$130 million, a significant stride forward, according to officials of a government-sponsored task force known as APEX-CI, which is working to promote trade with the U.S. The multi-faceted commercial incentives have allowed small-and medium-sized Ivoirian companies and handicraft professionals to increase their export of goods to the U.S., the paper adds, citing APEX-CI Deputy Director Gerard Amangoua. "The AGOA is a great opportunity for Ivoirian businessmen," he reportedly said. In a separate development, the paper notes that, according to U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, although achievements have been made, not all expectations were fully met with AGOA. Discussions for an extension of the project are on-going on, the paper says, adding that the U.S. Congress has the final decision.

2. **FPI president Affi Nguessan says he remains upbeat on the release of Laurent Gbagbo**

Granted bail last month, president of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'guessan, says he is upbeat that former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo will be released soon. The information is reported by opposition paper *Aujourd'hui* (p. 4) which notes that Affi was addressing a rally in his hometown of Bongouanou yesterday. On the occasion, the paper adds, he denounced insecurity, high costs of living and a fall in commodity prices. "All is upside-down in the country and we need to bring things back to normal," he said, adding that the release of all political prisoners, including Gbagbo, his wife Simon and former youth leader Charles Ble Goude, as well as the return of those in exile, is a prerequisite for lasting peace in Cote d'Ivoire.

Le Patriote (p. 3) alleges that a few days after being officially reconfirmed as FPI leader, Affi has taken controversial steps that are creating dissention within the party.

3. **ECOWAS Parliament to streamline and expand its activities**

The Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), an ad hoc body of the regional bloc, is likely to play a more important role in the future, according to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). A high-profile meeting to discuss ways to strengthen the institution is being held in Abidjan this week, the paper adds. According to Ivoirian Justice Minister Gnenema Coulibaly, if conclusive, the move will pave the way for a stronger ECOWAS Parliament. This assessment is shared by ECOWAS Parliament chairperson Ike Ekweremadu who has called regional leaders to follow the example of the European parliament and equip ECOWAS with a similar institution.

Soir Info (p. 11) notes that police from ECOWAS countries are joining forces to combat cross-border crime. The paper says a workshop recently brought together in Abidjan chiefs of staff from various police entities. On the occasion, participants agreed on collective measures to fight crime.

4. **The U.S. Embassy in Abidjan sponsors a workshop for proximity radios**

According to ***Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 2)*** the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan is hosting a two-day workshop designed for proximity radio managers. The paper quotes Information Officer Travis Murphy as saying that the training aims at teaching participants how to efficiently administer a proximity radio station. The training covers financial and human resources management for a viable radio station, the paper adds.

Soir Info (p. 214) carried a similar account, adding that the training is being conducted by a partnership between the Embassy and the Union of Ivoirian Proximity Radios (URPCI). URPCI President Bamba Karamoko thanked the U.S. Embassy for sponsoring the training and noted that it will help improve their working conditions.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

Nigeria's Globacom sets its sights on Comium takeover TeleGeography

Nigerian integrated telecoms firm Globacom has set its sights on struggling Ivorian cellco Comium Cote d'Ivoire, Agence Ecofin reports, quoting a source close ...

Ekweremadu Wants Enhancement Of ECOWAS's Powers Leadership Newspapers

Ekweremadu made this call in Abidjan, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, at the opening of the Meeting of ECOWAS Attorneys-General and Ministers of Justice which is ...

Cocoa Shortage Seen Expanding as Chocolate Sales Advance Bloomberg

Dry weather in Ivory Coast, the largest producer, may damage next season's main crop, the bigger of two annual harvests, and output in neighboring Ghana may ...

Another domestic carrier threatens to pull out of Ghana Myjoyonline.com

We are also thinking of relocation; if it doesn't happen we will relocate somewhere may be Ivory Coast or somewhere to operate from there. "...you cannot ...

Ghana to supply electricity to Ivory Coast

GhanaWeb

Advertisement. City Facilities Management Limited. Business News of Friday, 13 September 2013.
Source: radioxyzonline.com. Ghana to supply electricity to Ivory Coast. Email this. Share This. Share This Page. Facebook · Twitter · reddit · Google ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 12, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Government adopts bill on funding of political parties**
2. **West African police officers trained on trans-border security**
3. **Survey of Ivoirian online media begins**

1. Government adopts bill on funding of political parties

A bill adopted by the government to provide funding for political parties and candidates for presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire is prominent in the press today. According to a statement issued after a cabinet meeting yesterday and published in **Fraternite Matin (p. 5)**, the bill is an amendment of a previous law passed in September 2004 relating to the funding of political parties. The paper also quotes the Minister of Communication and government deputy-spokesperson, Affoussiata Bamba Lamine, as saying that about of FCFA two billion (nearly US \$4 million) will be given to political parties for the election. The money, the minister says, will help the parties to fund their activities.

On how this money will be shared among the political parties, a report in **Le Patriote (p. 3)** quotes the Minister as saying that the distribution will be based on representation of each party throughout the country.

A report in **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 2)** says that the bill has not yet been adopted. The paper quotes the Minister as explaining that discussion on this bill has been tabled due to disagreements between the government and the opposition.

2. West African police officers trained on trans-border security

A capacity-building training designed to implement bilateral agreements on security issues among the member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) just concluded in Abidjan, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)**. The training brought together police officers to focus on ways to curb the circulation and proliferation of light and small arms and illegal trafficking in the sub-region.

3. Survey of Ivoirian online media begins

REPPRELCI, the Ivoirian online media network, has launched a survey aimed at identifying all online media outlets in Cote d'Ivoire, says a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 25)**. According to the paper, the exercise is backed by the National Press Council (CNP), the government-run print media regulatory body, Cote d'Ivoire's news publishers association (GEPCI) and the High Authority of Audiovisual Communication (HACA). The purpose of the survey is to have accurate data on the online media environment in Cote d'Ivoire.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[2013 Francophone Games - Three Ivoirians Disappeared](#) AllAfrica.com

Cote d'Ivoire: 2013 Francophone Games - Three Ivoirians Disappeared. By Julie Esse, 11 September 2013. In Nice, there are more missing African Athletes than ...

[Ivory Coast inflation dips to 2.3 pct in August - Yahoo! News](#)

From Yahoo! News: ABIDJAN (Reuters) - Ivory Coast's year-on-year consumer price inflation fell to 2.3 percent in August from 2.4 percent in July, figures from ...

[Cocoa Shortage Seen Expanding as Chocolate Sales Advance](#)

Businessweek

Dry weather in Ivory Coast, the largest producer, may damage next season's main crop, the bigger of

two annual harvests, and output in neighboring Ghana may contract as the government cuts spending on pesticides. "We've seen production not as strong as ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 11, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Mediators from West African countries meet on conflict management**
2. **Study to identify women participation in development programs**
3. **U.S. Government funds to help train youth on human rights issues**
4. **President Ouattara meets with former Nigeria president Obasanjo**

1. Mediators from West African countries meet on conflict management

Mediators from West African Francophone countries are meeting in Abidjan this week to discuss the role they can play in the management of conflicts in the sub-region, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 6). Speaking at the opening session yesterday, the chairman of the West African Mediators Association, Albert Tevoedjre, said the management of the recent crisis in Cote d'Ivoire should serve as a lesson for countries in the region. Tevoedjre, a former head of the UN mission in Cote d'Ivoire, described the country as, "an example of the development of the whole West African region," and called on his peers to, "work relentlessly in order to make mediation a culture that prevents impediments for development in countries."

Speaking on behalf of President Ouattara, reports *Le Patriote* (p. 4), the Grande Chanceliere Henriette Dagri Diabate said, "A mediator should not only be concerned with everyday differences between the government and the people, but also take actions beyond borders to restore peace in every corner of our countries."

Reporting on this conference, *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) quotes Tevoedjre warning countries in the region about sectarian conflicts. "If measures are not taken on the problem with Boko Haram, we will be confronted with an explosive situation," he said.

2. Study to identify women participation in development programs

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) says the government has launched a study seeking to identify gender-based inequalities that are hindering economic growth, employment and the participation of women in economic, social and political issues in Cote d'Ivoire. According to the paper, the study is in response to international donors and partners who have set the gender issue as a pre-condition to provide assistance for development projects. The study, the report further says, will help figure out gender disparities and mechanisms to put in place to change the gap between men and women in Cote d'Ivoire.

3. U.S. Government funds to help train youth on human rights issues

The U.S. Embassy in Abidjan will support ADC-CI, a locally-based NGO, to train youth on human rights issues, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 10). The project will also help encourage the youth to participate in programs that focus issues pertaining to governance and local democracy. The US \$20,000-project, which was launched on Tuesday, is fully-funded by the U.S. Embassy.

4. President Ouattara meets with former Nigeria president Obasanjo

Footage on state television *RTI1* yesterday showed President Alassane Ouattara holding talks with former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo in Abidjan. According to the report nothing transpired from the two-hour closed door meeting between the two leaders.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[\\$200, 000 US grant to strengthen Ivorian campaign against gender ...](#)StarAfrica.com

The NGO wages an anti-violence campaign in ten communities based in the west of Cote d'Ivoire namely Duekoue, Bangolo, Guiglo, Man, Toulepleu, Danane, ...

[The Investment Potential Of West Africa](#)

Tunisia Online News-2 hours ago

Other regional GDP highlights include Gambia (6%), *Côte d'Ivoire* (9.5%) and ... of this – *cocoa*, cotton, coffee, groundnuts and cashew *nuts*.

[Liberia's Oldest Refugee Camp Downgraded](#) AllAfrica.com

Saclepea Refugee Camp was established in January 2003 when some 30,000 Ivorians fled to seek refuge in Liberia in the wake of conflict in Côte d'Ivoire in ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 10, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Reactions after opposition leader criticizes President Ouattara's management**
2. **Prime Minister Duncan meets with head of MIGA**
3. **U.S. government backs fight against gender violence**
4. **Ivoirian government moves towards reducing illiteracy rate**
5. **Government and NGO together to fight teenage pregnancy**

1. Reactions after opposition leader criticizes President Ouattara's management

The recent speech in which the leader of the opposition FPI party, Pascal Affi N'Guessan, criticized President Alassane Ouattara's government and called for a national forum on issues confronting the country has sparked reactions in the press. "We want to remind our brothers of the FPI who were temporarily released that Ivoirians are fully committed to reconciliation," **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** quotes President Ouattara's RDR party spokesman, Joel N'Guessan, as saying in response. In a statement issued yesterday, N'Guessan also said, "Ivoirians are no longer prepared for fighting and hating each other like they did in the past." The spokesman is also reported as saying that President Ouattara has put in place two mechanisms aimed at encouraging reconciliation and that, "it is up to the FPI party to join these mechanisms," so that the dialogue between the government and the opposition does not "linger too long."

Commenting on the FPI leader's speech, **L'Expression (p. 2)** says that criticism leveled against the government is in contradiction with the current situation in Cote d'Ivoire. An article in **L'Inter (p. 4)** also suggests that Affi N'Guessan, who was released from jail a month ago, might be "disconnected" from reality. Louis-Andre Dacoury Tabley, a member of the National Assembly, is quoted as saying that Affi N'Guessan was just trying to "embarrass" President Ouattara, reports **Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 5)**.

2. Prime Minister Duncan meets with head of MIGA

A report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 16)** says the deputy head of Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), Keiko Honda, met yesterday with Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. In the meeting, Honda commended Cote d'Ivoire for progress made in the country. The article says the government is currently implementing many projects including Henri Konan Bedie toll bridge in Abidjan and the Azito thermal power plant with funding from MIGA, a World Bank group. According to a report in **Le Patriote (p. 9)**, MIGA's contributions to reconstruction projects in Cote d'Ivoire after the 2011 post-electoral crisis accounted for FCFA 385 billion (about US \$ 770 million) in 2012.

3. U.S. government backs fight against gender violence

The U.S. Embassy in Cote d'Ivoire has granted US \$20,000 to Transparency Justice, a locally-based NGO, to fight gender violence in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)**. The project will support local communities in western Cote d'Ivoire to enable them take the leadership in fighting against gender violence in the region.

4. Ivoirian government moves towards reducing illiteracy rate

The government is committed to reduce the illiteracy rate in Cote d'Ivoire from 51 percent to 35 percent by the year 2020, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 11)**. According to the paper, the Minister of National Education, Kandia Camara, said this as part of the commemoration of the World Literacy Day.

5. Government and NGO together to fight teenage pregnancy

Government officials and representatives of NGOs are meeting in Yamoussoukro this week to map out a plan to fight young teenage pregnancy in Cote d'Ivoire, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 12)**. The plan will include punishment for those who are found responsible for impregnating teenagers. According to

the report, about 6,000 adolescents have been impregnated during the 2012-2013 academic year in the entire country.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast hopes to squeeze the profits from palm oil](#) BBC News

The palm oil industry originated in West Africa but is now dominated by massive plantations in South-East Asia. The BBC's Tamasin Ford reports that Ivory Coast ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 9, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Inter-Ivoirian Dialogue: Prime Minister Duncan meets with key political stakeholders**
2. Released from jail, Affi N'Guessan takes leadership of Gbagbo's FPI party
3. **President Ouattara meets with French counterpart on margins of Francophonie games**
4. **Government and farmers discuss reforms to boost cotton and cashew nuts production**

1. Inter-Ivoirian Dialogue: Prime Minister Duncan meets with key political stakeholders

Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan met on Friday with key political stakeholders including members of the FPI party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo as part of dialogue between the government and Ivoirian opposition parties. "As a former Prime Minister, we have special rapport with the state of Cote d'Ivoire and this rapport makes it mandatory for us to discuss issues pertaining to security and privileges that the state should confer on former Prime Ministers," *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) quotes Pascal Affi N'Guessan, chairman of the FPI party, as saying after his meeting with Duncan. A report in *L'Inter* (p. 3) also says the role of political parties in Cote d'Ivoire and the status of opposition parties were also high on the agenda during the meeting between the Prime Minister and the opposition parties. On these issues, the paper quotes Duncan as saying that significant progress has been made as the government has adopted a bill.

"The dialogue should not linger too long," an article in pro-opposition daily *Notre Voie* (p. 3) quotes Affi N'Guessan as saying. According to a report in *Le Jour Plus* (p. 3), the leader of Gbagbo's FPI party welcomed the government and opposition dialogue saying it will help restore "peace and serenity" in Cote d'Ivoire. A commentary in pro-government newspaper *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) suggests that Gbagbo's FPI party should be hailed for returning to the negotiation table because this decision will help "defuse" political tension in the country.

2. Released from jail, Affi N'Guessan takes leadership of Gbagbo's FPI party

Reports in the press today say Affi N'Guessan has officially taken over the leadership of the opposition FPI party, a month after he was released from jail. Reports in *Notre Voie* (pp. 2&3) say Affi N'Guessan used the opportunity to criticize President Alassane Ouattara's government for creating an economic growth that does not help average Ivoirians. Affi N'Guessan also denounced "financial scandals" under the current government and called for a national forum on issues confronting the country. The reports also say a new executive committee has been put in place with former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo, who is currently detained in the northern town of Odienne in connection with crimes committed during the 2010-2011 post electoral violence, still in leadership as the second vice-president of the party.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 2) comments on the return of Affi N'Guessan and others to FPI's leadership saying that it marks the comeback of "hardliners" whose "deeds and misdeeds could undermine the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire." The paper also suggests that the decision to keep the former first lady as the number two of the party means that despite being in jail, Gbagbo is still in control of the party. The paper then concludes that with these "dinosaurs" holding power, it will be difficult to envision any dialogue between the FPI party and the government.

An article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 8) also casts doubt on whether the opposition FPI party is ready to join the reconciliation process. According to the paper, Affi N'Guessan on Saturday announced the "death" of this dialogue and called for a national forum.

3. President Ouattara meets with French counterpart on margins of Francophonie games

A report in ***Fraternite Matin* (p. 4)** says President Ouattara held talks with his French counterpart Francois Hollande on the margins of the Francophonie games underway in Nice, France. Speaking after the meeting, President Ouattara said, "The discussions focused on issues pertaining to ECOWAS and the entire African continent with special emphasis on economic issues." According to President Ouattara, speaking yesterday in Abidjan upon return from France, President Hollande commended Cote d'Ivoire for "its remarkable progress."

4. Government and farmers discuss reforms to boost cotton and cashew nuts production

Government officials and other actors in the cotton and cashew nuts sectors met in Yamoussoukro recently to streamline the productions of these two commodities, reports ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 10)**. The plan seeks, among other things, to increase cotton production from 350,000 to 600,000 tons by the year 2016, the paper quotes the Minister of Agriculture, Sangafowa Coulibaly as saying.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

SEPTEMBER 6, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **President Alassane Ouattara to attend Francophonie Games**
2. **Ivoirian Prime Minister rules out general amnesty, says the government will continue to reach out to the FPI**
3. **Leadership of the FPI vows to take back power**

1. **President Alassane Ouattara to attend Francophonie Games**

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 40), President Alassane Ouattara is in Nice, France where he will attend the Seventh Francophonie Games. Scheduled from September 7 to September 15, the Francophonie Games will bring together French-speaking professional athletes from various sports as well as artists, the paper says.

On the margin of the event, the Ivoirian leader will meet with his French counterpart François Hollande. Discussions, the paper adds, are likely to focus on cooperation between the two countries and French support for the recovery of the Ivoirian economy. Regional issues, especially the situation in Mali, are also on the agenda, the paper adds.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 12) says that the Governor of the District of Abidjan, Robert Beugre Mambe, is also part of the Ivoirian delegation. His presence in Nice is part of an effort to promote the city of Abidjan as a tourist destination, the paper says.

2. **Ivoirian Prime Minister rules out general amnesty, says the government will continue to reach out to the FPI**

In a press conference yesterday in Abidjan, Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan said that blanket amnesty for those accused of wrong-doing related to the country's post-electoral crisis was out of question. "A general amnesty is not feasible," he reportedly said in response to the leadership of the FPI which has been calling for the measure as a move towards reconciliation. According to the daily, Duncan argued that steps taken in the past have not prevented troubles in the country. "We must avoid repeating past mistakes and allow justice to triumph," he said, adding that the government remains committed to dialogue with the opposition, including the FPI.

Still on the issue, *Le Patriote* (pp. 2-5) says that in a wide-ranging address, the Ivoirian Prime Minister defended the government's actions, arguing that a lot of achievements have been made over the past two years with more than 20,000 jobs created this year and a plan for 60,000 houses to be built by 2015. "Our efforts have started to pay off and the Ivoirian people will experience growth soon," he reportedly said.

Opposition paper *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 2) alleges that salaries will not be increased as previously announced. According to the daily, Duncan said there are no funds to honor this commitment made earlier this year to civil servants and employees from the private sector by President Ouattara.

Nord Sud Quotidien (pp.6-7) for its part said that no concrete measure has been announced to alleviate the rising cost of living.

3. **Leadership of the FPI vows to take back power**

According to an article in *Le Temps* (p. 6), the leadership of the FPI remains committed to retaking power. Meeting yesterday in Abidjan with supporters, FPI president Pascal Affi N'guessan said the party must be "mobilized to set the country free." "We will not back down and we must reconquer,

without the use of arms, state power," he reportedly said. **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5)** carries a similar account.

[International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire](#)

[West Africa Bourse to Switch to Real-Time Trading This Month](#) Businessweek

The BVRM serves Benin, Ivory Coast, Niger, Mali, Togo, Guinea Bissau, Burkina Faso and Senegal. France Telecom SA's Senegalese unit, Sonatel, is the ...

[UEMOA: West African Ombudsmen to meet in Cote d'Ivoire](#) Afrique en Ligue

West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) - Ombudsmen of the member states of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) are ...

[Gbagbo ally commends Ghana for upholding rule of law](#) GhanaWeb

A former Minister of Budget in Cote d'Ivoire, Dr Justin Konin Katinan, has commended Ghana for the peaceful manner in which it has resolved its election ...

[Border Calm, But...](#) AllAfrica.com

Despite scanty reports of insecurity at the Liberia-Ivorian boarder, the Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire here, Kapielletieu Soro says the common boarders remain ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 5, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Inter-Ivoirian dialogue to resume, government spokesman says**
2. **Government adopts bill on human rights**
3. **Soldiers to appear in court in connection with 2011 post-electoral crisis**
4. **Minister meets companies over reforms in the mining sector**
5. **Ivoirian government and American firm sign contracts for gas production**

1. Inter-Ivoirian dialogue to resume, government spokesman says

A report in **Soir Info (p. 3)** quotes government spokesperson Bruno Kone yesterday as saying, "The dialogue between the government and the opposition will resume in a few days." Kone said this during a briefing for journalists after the weekly cabinet meeting. Kone also said, "In a few days public discussions will effectively begin with political parties including the FPI." The paper also reports that the spokesperson underscored that "significant progress" has been made. However, he also pointed out that there are certain demands the government is still working to address.

The political dialogue, which has been suspended for several months, will resume on Friday reports **Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4)**. "We have been invited to attend a meeting at the office of the Prime Minister on Friday. We are going for open discussion," the paper quotes Gervais Coulibaly, leader of Cap-UDD party, as saying.

2. Government adopts bill on human rights

A bill adopted yesterday by the government seeking to promote and protect human rights activists in Cote d'Ivoire has sparked mixed reactions in the press today. **Fraternite Matin (p. 6)** carries a statement issued by the government after the cabinet meeting saying the bill seeks to determine the rights and obligations of activists as well as the role of the government to guarantee the respect for human rights and freedoms.

An article in **L'Inter (p.6)** claims that the government may use this law to silence human rights activists. However, the paper also quotes Kone as saying that the bill will help put an end to "political activism" on the part of certain human rights campaigners.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 5) expresses concerns about the bill arguing that, if passed into law, it could undermine the work of human rights protectors.

3. Soldiers to appear in court in connection with 2011 post-electoral crisis

The trial of security forces that fought during the 2011 post-electoral crisis will resume in October, **Soir Info (p. 4)** quotes military prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel Ange Kessy as saying. The prosecutor also says that the soldiers who are detained in connection with the killing in 2002 of former military leader and president, General Robert Guei, will also appear in court. According to the paper, Kessy made these announcements in an interview with the media yesterday. "Out of the 446 security forces arrested in connection with the 2011 post-electoral violence, 146 have already been tried," the paper quotes him as saying.

4. Minister meets companies over reforms in the mining sector

The Ivoirian Mining and Industry Minister, Jean-Claude Brou, met yesterday with mining companies operating in Cote d'Ivoire over reforms underway in this sector, reports **L'Inter (p. 10)**. According to the paper, the minister, who was meeting for the first time since his nomination with the companies, pledged to speed up the reforms. The new mining code, the minister is reported as saying, will take into account the current situation on the ground and the positions of the mining companies in order to establish a sound partnership between the private sector and the government.

5. Ivoirian government and American firm sign contracts for gas production

A report in ***Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 12)** says the government has signed contracts worth US \$490 million with Anadarko, an American firm, to boost gas exploration and production in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper quotes the Ivoirian Minister in charge of Economy and Finance, Niale Kaba, who signed the contracts, as expressing hope that "the projects would lead to important gas deposits and would help Cote d'Ivoire produce low-cost electricity."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Burkina Faso: With or Without Compaoré, Times of Uncertainty](#) ISN

A presidential election is also due in 2015 in Côte d'Ivoire, a country with which Burkina Faso has very close ties. This special relationship and the presence of a ...

[Liberia, Ivory Coast Hold Security Meeting](#) AllAfrica.com

Military officials in Liberia and the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire are expected to adopt a resolution in Monrovia today on means peace can be sustained and ties can ...

[Mali interim leader hails I.Coast help in resolving crisis](#) AFP

ABIDJAN — Mali's interim leader Dioncounda Traore thanked Ivory Coast for its support in resolving its severe political crisis, on his last overseas visit before ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 4, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Malian transition President calls on President Ouattara
2. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume
3. World Bank group invests more than US \$152 million in Ivoirian private sector
4. World Bank project to help improve banana production in Cote d'Ivoire

1. Malian transition President calls on President Ouattara

President Alassane Ouattara yesterday met in Abidjan with Malian transition President Dioncounda Traore, reports **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)**. According to the paper, President Traore, who will be handing over power today to the newly-elected Malian President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, made a final visit to Cote d'Ivoire to thank his Ivoirian counterpart for his leadership role in resolving the crisis in Mali. "Our country will never forget your personal involvement and engagement that helped our country return to constitutional rule," the paper quotes President Toure as saying.

2. Dialogue between government and opposition to resume

The Convention of Civil Society in Cote d'Ivoire has called on both the government and opposition to resume dialogue in order to ensure reconciliation among Ivoirians, says a report in **Fraternite Matin (p. 7)**. According to the paper, members of civil society made the call yesterday in Abidjan after a meeting with a delegation of the opposition FPI party. Another report in this paper (**p. 9**) announces a meeting on Friday between Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan and members of opposition groups in connection with the inter-Ivoirian dialogue. The paper quotes the Prime Minister's spokesperson Noel Yao as saying, "The government is open for dialogue with the FPI." However, the paper casts doubt on whether former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party will join the discussion at this time. An article in pro-FPI newspaper **Notre Voie (p. 2)** claims that President Ouattara is now open to dialogue with Gbagbo's party following pressure from the international community. The paper also hints that former Prime Minister Jeannot Ahoussou Kouadio has been nominated to facilitate the dialogue between the two sides.

3. World Bank group invests more than US \$152 million in Ivoirian private sector

A report in **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3)** says the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank group, has invested more than US \$152 million in the Ivoirian private sector this year. Among the areas which have received investments are health, agriculture, infrastructure and electricity production. Reporting on the same issue, **Fraternite Matin (p. 14)** quotes the IFC's head in Cote d'Ivoire, Cassandra Colbert, as saying that the volume of investments in this country - particularly in sub-Saharan Africa - has increased steadily during the past five years.

4. World Bank project to help improve banana production in Cote d'Ivoire

Still on economic issues, **Fraternite Matin (p. 16)** reports on a US \$40 million-project financed by the World Bank to improve banana productivity in Cote d'Ivoire. The ten-year project, the report says, will see the participation of nearly 300,000 actors from the banana production industry, including women.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivory Coast's Bouake hosts workshop for cotton growers](#) Fibre2fashion.com

The city of Bouake in the Western African country of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) hosted a workshop to create awareness regarding use of pesticides for the ...

OW Bunker Starts Physical Supply in West Africa Ship & Bunker

... Bunker says it has started physical supply operations offshore in West Africa, covering an area including Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

September 3, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Reactions after Ghana court rejects request to extradite Ivoirian fugitive**
2. **President Ouattara meets with newly-elected Malian President**
3. **Experts meeting in Abidjan over ECOWAS single currency**
4. **Cote d'Ivoire moves to switch to digital TV**

1. Reactions after Ghana court rejects request to extradite Ivoirian fugitive

The decision on Friday by a court in Ghana to reject a request to extradite Justin Katina Kone, a senior ally of former president Laurent Gbagbo, is widely commented on in the press. A report in the weekend issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 8)** says Ghana has refused to extradite the spokesperson of Gbagbo saying in the ruling that the warrant issued by Ivorian authorities was politically motivated. The paper also quotes the prosecutor as saying, "Kone is living in Ghana as refugee." A report in **L'Inter (p. 2)** quotes Gbagbo supporters as welcoming the court's decision by saying, "It honors Ghana's judicial system." On the other side, pro-government daily **La Matinale (p. 7)** quotes Ivorian Minister of Justice Mamadou Gnenema Coulibaly as vowing to arrest Kone if he dares to come back home.

Many pro-opposition dailies, including **Notre Voie (p. 2)**, **Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 3)** and **LG Infos (p. 9)**, see the court's decision as "a setback" for Ivorian authorities and evidence that Gbagbo, who is facing trial at the International Criminal Court, is not guilty of the crimes against humanity leveled against him.

On a similar tone, **Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 4)** says that the decision not to extradite Kone, who was accused by the Ivorian authorities of masterminding the looting of banks in Cote d'Ivoire during the political crisis of 2011, should serve as "lesson" to the Ivorian judicial system.

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 7) wonders whether this ruling could be interpreted as "double standard," given the extraditions from Ghana to Cote d'Ivoire of former Ivorian youth leader Charles Ble Goude and other supporters of Gbagbo.

2. President Ouattara meets with newly-elected Malian President

A visit of the newly-elected Malian President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, to Cote d'Ivoire to meet his Ivorian counterpart is featured prominently in the press. According to **Fraternite Matin (p. 4)**, President Keita is in Abidjan to thank President Ouattara for his efforts to help resolve the crisis in Mali. Keita said that Ouattara, as chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), has made "tremendous efforts" to help Mali be where it is today. The visit of Mali's president will also help reinforce bilateral between the two countries, reports the paper.

3. Experts meeting in Abidjan over ECOWAS single currency

A report in today's issue of **Fraternite Matin (p. 27)** says experts from ECOWAS countries are meeting in Abidjan this week to speed up a regional plan towards a single currency by 2020. The meeting brings together members of a technical committee in charge of macro-economic policies who will work toward recommendations on the region's economic and monetary integration scheme. The report quotes experts as saying that, to achieve this objective, ECOWAS should emulate the experience of West African Francophone countries which share the FCFA Franc as a single currency.

4. Cote d'Ivoire moves to switch to digital TV

Media experts from Cote d'Ivoire and other countries met last week in Abidjan to discuss ways to speed up the transition from analog to digital television in Cote d'Ivoire and other countries in the West African region, reports **L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 12)**. The report says the deadline for

transition for Cote d'Ivoire is set for June 2015, and authorities in Cote d'Ivoire are trying to put in place technical and legal measures to enable the country to meet the deadline.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

Ghana will not extradite top Gbagbo ally to I. Coast GlobalPost

A court in Ghana on Friday rejected a request from Ivory Coast to extradite a top ... The current government in Ivory Coast has accused Katinan of raiding banks ...

Hershey child labor lawsuit faces meltdown ConfectioneryNews.com

Almost 820,000 children in the Ivory Coast and over 997,000 kids in Ghana were found to be working on cocoa-related activities in 2007/2008, according to ...

UPDATE 1-Ivorian agency, cocoa exporters dispute costs, prices Reuters Africa

ABIDJAN Aug 30 (Reuters) - Ivory Coast cocoa exporters have rejected a price structure proposed by the industry regulator for the 2013/14 season, saying it ...

Ambitious ICT plans for 'convalescent' Ivory Coast Biztech Africa

Ivory Coast, a West African nation of 22 million people still recovering from the 2011 deadly post-electoral conflict, has launched some ambitious plans to take its ...

Ivorian cocoa exporters, CCC fail to agree on cost structure BusinessDay

Ivory Coast cocoa exporters rejected a price structure proposed by the Coffee and Cocoa Council (CCC) regulator for the 2013/14 season, saying it ...

OW Bunker launches West Africa marine fuel supply operations Platts

... said Monday it has launched supply operations in West Africa, encompassing Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal and offshore waters down to the Ivory Coast.

114 injured in road accident in central Cote d'Ivoire BusinessGhana

A total of 114 people were injured when two public transport buses collided in Cote d'Ivoire's central town of Yamoussoukro, local sources said on Friday.

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent number of copies printed, not actual sales)

Fraternite Matin

Government-owned daily newspaper

23,000 daily

L'Intelligent d'Abidjan

Privately-owned daily; leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara

7,000 daily

L'Inter

Independent daily

20,000 daily

Le Nouveau Courrier

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo

10,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA party of former President Henri Konan Bedie
17,000 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily close to the RDR party of President Alassane Ouattara
17,000 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo
30,000 daily

Nord-Sud Quotidien- (no current website)

Daily close to Speaker of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro
10,000 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo
15,000 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily 22,000
=====

[Agence Ivoirienne](#) de Presse

Government-run news agency

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate